

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 07052 201823Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 DHA-02 AID-05 HEW-04 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 416

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 7052

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, SHUM, UNHRC

SUBJECT: CHILE - UN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WORKING GROUP

REF: STATE 169395

1. DURING A CALL LAST WEEK ON ANOTHER SUBJECT, THE AMBASSADOR MENTIONED TO UNDER SECRETARY OF FOREGIN AFFAIRS COLONEL VALDES OUR INTEREST IN THE SCHEDULE OF THE UNHRC WORKING GROUP (REFTEL). VALDES IMMEDIATELY VOLUNTEERED THAT THE GOC HAD SENT A LETTER TO UNHRC PRESIDENT BENITEZ COMPLAINING ABOUT THE WORKING GROUP'S PLANNED VISIT TO MEXICO. (FOREIGN MINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL LAVIN LATER SENT THE AMBASSADOR A COPY OF THE LETTER, FROM FOREIGN MINISTER CARVAJAL TO BENITEZ, DATED JULY 2. THE DEPARTMENT HAS A COPY.) BENITEZ DID NOT RECEIVE THE LETTER, BUT UNHRC SECRETARY SCHREIBER REPLIED THAT IT WAS TOO LATE TO CHANGE THE MEXICAN VISIT.

2. CONTINUING, VALDES NOTED THAT THE WORKING GROUP WOULD HAVE TO PREPARE ITS REPORT ON CHILE DURING AUGUST IN ORDER TO PRESENT IT TO THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN SEPTEMBER. IT WAS SPENDING SUCH A LONG TIME IN MEXICO, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WOULD BE NO TIME LEFT FOR IT TO MEET THE CHILEAN REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK AND THEN VISIT CHILE IN AUGUST. THEREFORE, EVEN
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 07052 201823Z

WITH THE GREATEST GOOD WILL FROM THE GOC, IT APPEARED

IMPOSSIBLE THAT A UN VISIT COULD TAKE PLACE BEFORE THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY MET. VALDES IMPLIED THAT THE GOC HAD NOT YET DECIDED WHETHER TO APPEAR BEFORE THE WORKING GROUP IN NEW YORK IF IT MET IN MEXICO.

3. COMMENT: VALDES ALSO SAID THAT THE GOC HAD SENT A LETTER TO UNHRC PRESIDENT BENITEZ STATING THAT HE PERSONALLY WOULD BE ALLOWED TO COME TO CHILE. SINCE THIS POINT WAS NOT MENTIONED IN CARVAJAL'S LETTER OF JULY 2 TO BENITEZ, THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN TRYING -- SO FAR UNSUCCESSFULLY -- TO CONFIRM VALDES' STATEMENT.

4. WE QUESTION WHETHER THE GOC SINCERELY WANTS SOME KIND OF UN INSPECTION VISIT TO CHILE BEFORE THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY. IT IS CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT THE GOC HAS CAUSE TO COMPLAIN ABOUT THE WORKING GROUP VISIT TO MEXICO. MEXICO IS THE CENTER OF ANTI-GOC EXILE ACTIVITY AND THE ONLY LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY WITH WHICH GOC DOES NOT HAVE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. THE MEXICO VISIT HAS EVERY APPEARANCE OF AN EFFORT TO IMPEDE AN AGREEMENT WITH THE GROUP ON A VISIT TO CHILE. IN ANY EVENT -- AND THE SINCERITY OF BOTH PARTIES ASIDE -- VALDES HAS A POINT IN SAYING THAT THERE MAY NOW BE INSUFFICIENT TIME TO ARRANGE AND CARRY OUT A VISIT TO CHILE BEFORE THE GROUP GETS DOWN TO WRITING ITS REPORT.
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